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PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #192 OK

CHICAGO OUTLET WMAQ ( 12:30 pl ) ( MARCH 27,1936 ) ( FRIDAY DAY

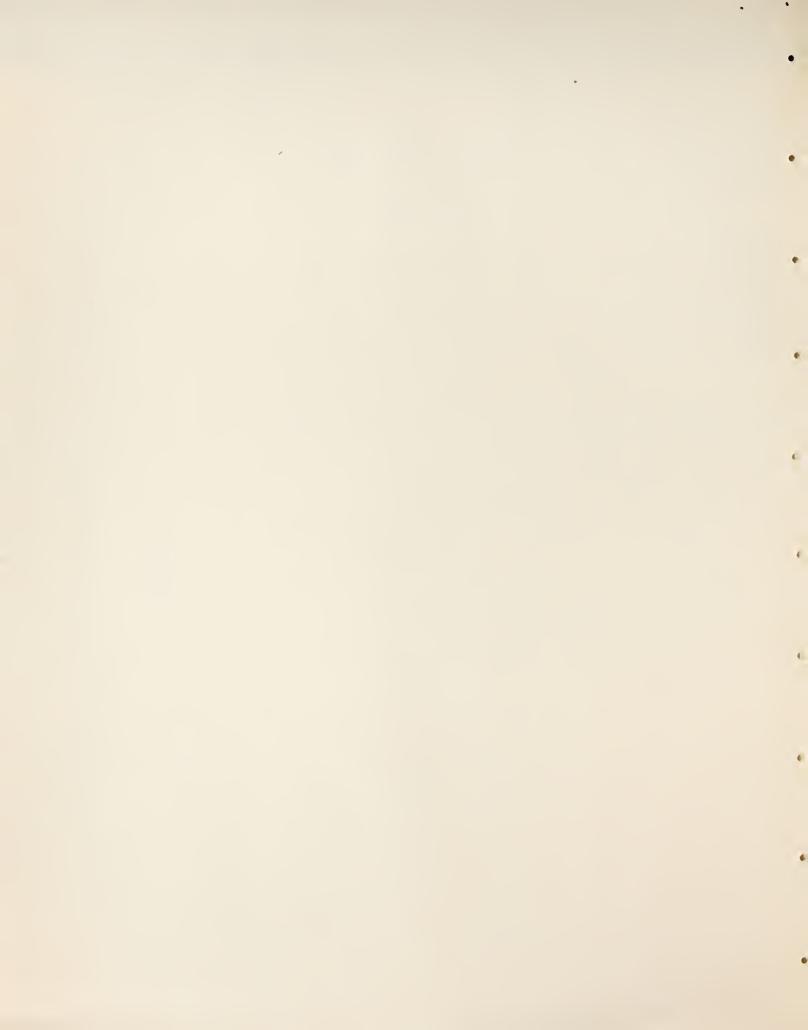
PRODUCTION

**ANNOUNCER** 

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REMARKS

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ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

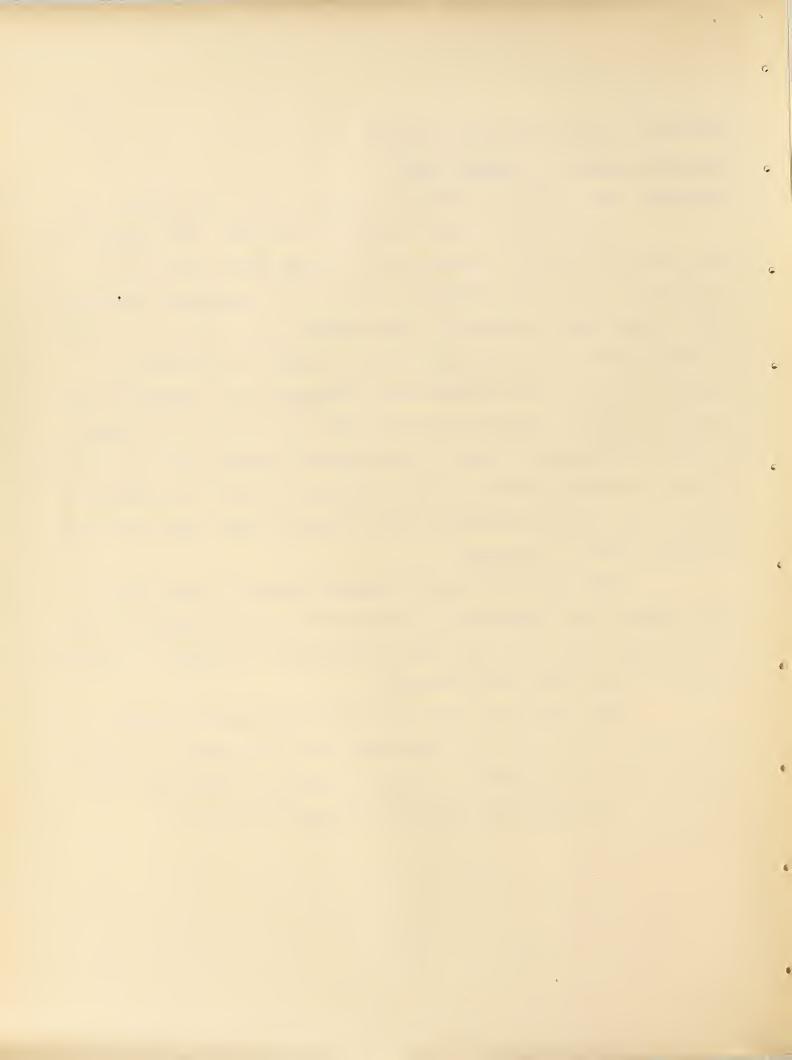
ORCHESTRA: QUARTET: "RANGER SONG"

ANNOUNCER: Our country is fortunate in having one of the largest and finest public forest systems in the world. One hundred and fifty National Forests, located in 37 of the 48 States and in two territories, form in the aggregate a vast public playground and vacation land free and open to everyone. And recreation, of course, is only one of the resources of the National Forests. Under the principle of "multiple use," the Forest Service also administers the National Forest system to provide a yearly cut of more than a billion feet of timber; to protect watersheds of many of the important streams and about one-third of the water-power resources of the country; to harbor a considerable share of our remaining wildlife; and to furnish summer range for about 13 million head of livestock.

The job of managing the National Forests so that all of these resources are developed and maintained in maximum degree is one of the biggest and most unique public enterprises in history. And that s the job of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

Well, now for a visit to the Pine Cone Ranger Station.

Some folks are dropping in, we understand, and it's going to be another evening around the fire-side -- so here's hoping our old friend Jim Robbins has something interesting up his sleeve to tell us -- Here we go --



BESS: What h premed today, Jim? Anything exciting?

JIM: Nope I got wet That's all

MARY: I should think you would, with all the rain we had You should have heard it beating on the roof while I was trying to teach school this afternoon. I couldn't hear whether the children recited their lessons well or not.

JIN: (CHUCKLING) Hight as well mark 'em all perfect then, and give 'em the benefit of the doubt Huh, Mary?

MARY: (LAUGHING) I think you'd be too easy as a school teacher,
Mr. Robbins.

JERRY: Not if it was anything like the way he trains his assistant ranger.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Jerry sounds like he was being picked on.

MARY: Were you, Jerry?

JERRY: Oh no - only Jim sent me out to mark timber for a selective cutting today. Talk about getting wet -- I was the one that got wet.

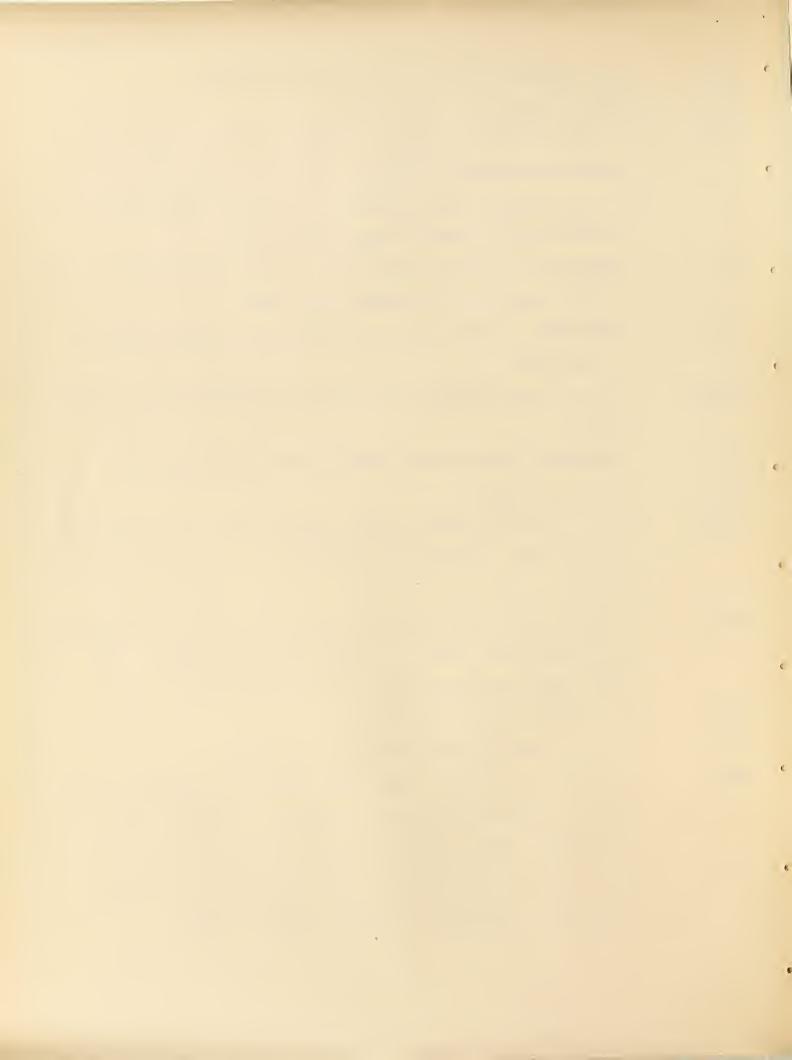
BESS: I should say he did. And he'd have sat around all evening in his wet clothes, too, if I hadn't made him change. It's lucky these men have someone to look after them

MARY: It certainly is, Mrs. Robbins.

JIM: Yep, I s'pose we get careless now and then.

BESS: I should say you do. -- But then, rangers of course have to be on the job in all sorts of weather - irregular hours and everything. It's a wonder they gt along as well as they do.

MARY: Isn't it? - By the way, Mr. Roblins, why do they call you "rangers?" -- because you range around so much?



JIW:

Well, I guess it's appropriate that way, Mary -- but it's an old, old word They say the term "ranger" was first used in England way back about 1455, when rangers and foresters were mentioned on the rolls of Parliament. And it seems the English borrowed the word from the French.

JERRY:

Who were the first rangers in this country?

JIM:

Well, the earliest record of rangers I ever heard of in this country was in 1742 - in Georgia

MARY:

In Georgia? How was that?

JI!!:

Well, the Provisions of the Colony of Georgia back in 1742 said that "for the defense of the Colony, it is necessary to have rangers who can ride the woods," or some such wording as that. Then, in 1796 the State of Virginia sent some men out into the forests against the Cherokee Indians, and these men were called rangers -- So I reckon we ve got an ancient and honorable ancestry. From way back in early history rangers have been men identified with the forests.

JERRY:

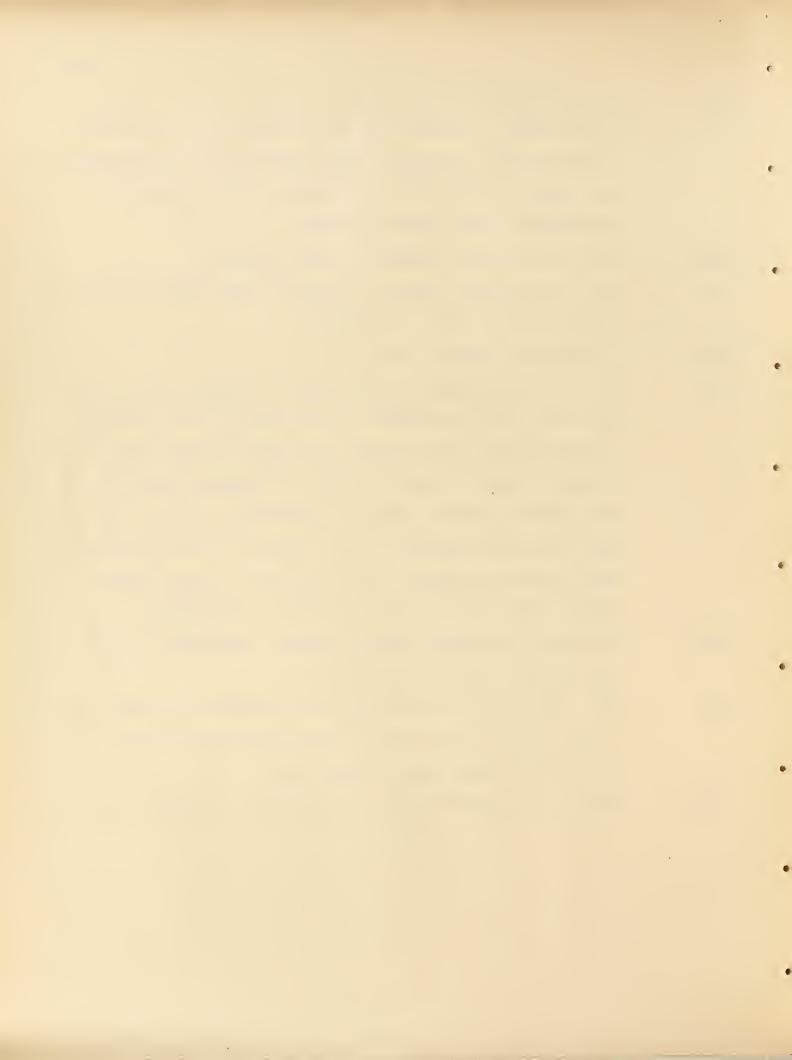
How about the Forest Service Rangers? We've got a pretty long history of our own, haven't we?

JIM:

Yep. Our first forest rangers on the National Forests went on the job of course when the first National Forests were established almost half a century ago

JERRY:

The National Forests were called \*forest reserves\* then.



JIII:

Yeah - Our job has grown a lot since those days. The early day rangers were primarily patrolmen, looking after protection and law enforcement. That's still part of our job, but the job's been growing bigger and more complex ever since, and now it's a big job of land management that involves not only protection of the forest but developing its resources and managing their use so that they'll keep on contributing as much as possible to the benefit of our communities and the whole country.

JERRY:

Kinda like managing a big ranch, ain't it? You've got to build all the improvements, and maintain the tools and equipment, and hire the help, and grow the crops - and run the whole business.

JIM:

Yep, it's a land management job, something like a farmer's, wormight say - only the Ranger's crops are timber and water and wildlife and recreation, instead of hogs and corn - - And a District Ranger is responsible for the right handling of a tract of land sometimes as big as an average County, and for the welfare of all the people living and working on it.

MARY:

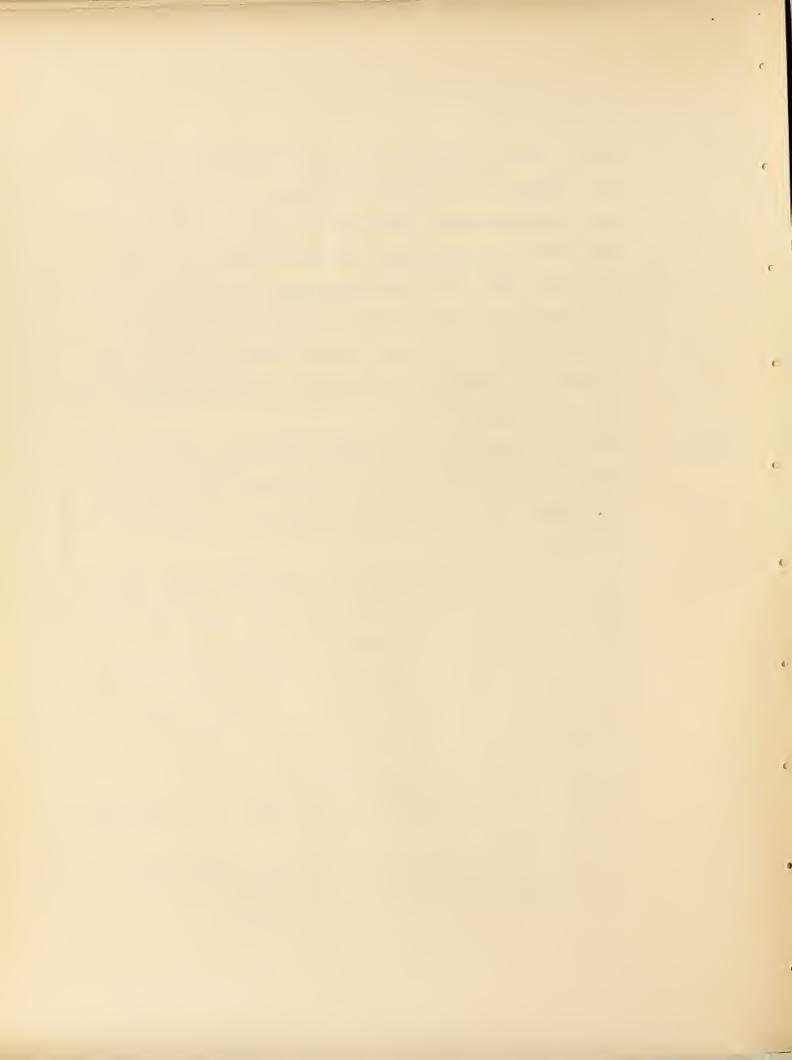
My, that's a big enough responsibility.

JIM:

I reckon it's a good-sized job all right - one that kinda challenges you -

JERRY:

That's the U.S. Forest Rangers you were talking about. There's a lot of other ranger outfits too, nowadays.



JI.

Yep The Pirk Service calls for emboyees in the Mandaman Parks Rangers and Ranger-Naturalists Their justice and different of course And then several of the States have state forest rangers.

JERRY:

There's the Texas Rangers too.

JI :

Yes The Texas Rangers have a fine long bistor, and tradition. They came by the mame "rangers" from the same source.

I reckon — the men the rode the forests in the early day, only, owing to the nature of the country, the Texas Rangers rode postly the open range, he the interest of lashed order (CHITLES) tell, jou got the tarted on soletting the country as a feeling result is own to end there a reflecting that the limit of the country are the country and the country are considered as a result of the country and the country are considered as a result of the country are co

.ARY:

But fout's just that to east you to do, Mr. Robbins. Tell as a material core about the National Forents.

J ... .

Tell -- The T, for instance?

MARY:

On, southing, ir Robbins You told us about the Ocala

Latinual Forest in Florida the other Light. Fell us about

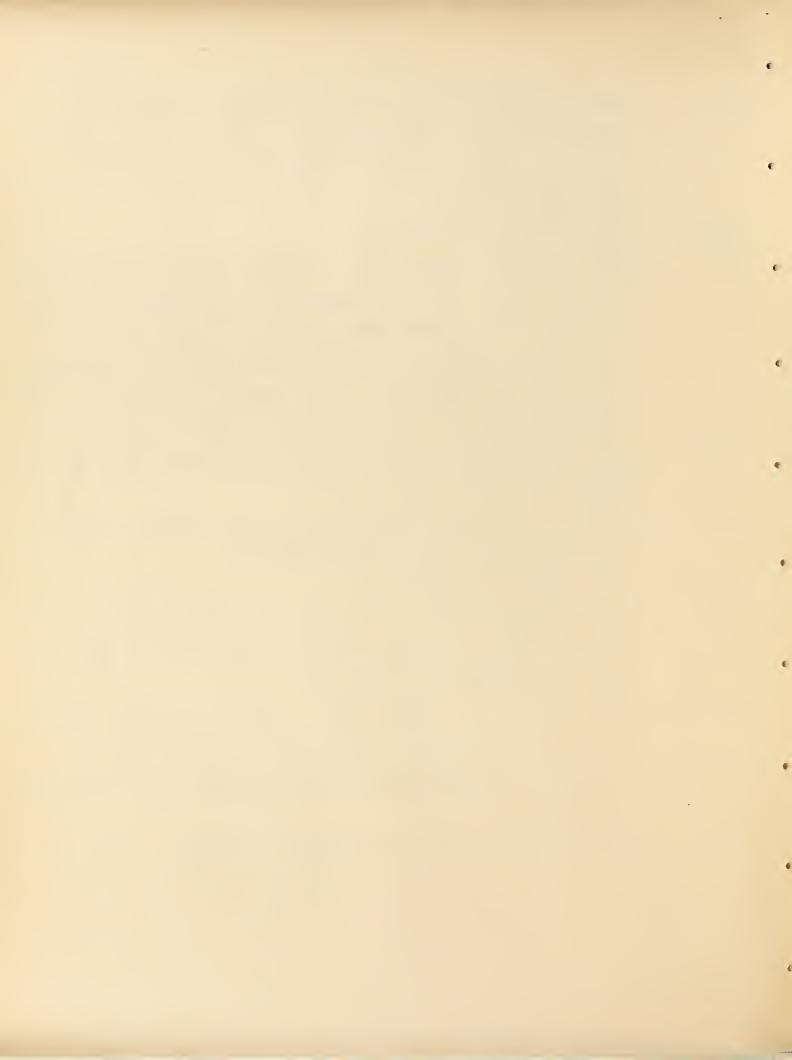
other interesting Forest like that.

JI ::

fords eve been having in the eastern State in the last for weeks - I might tell you about the Forest that was a more than a cloud

BESS:

Jin, how could a forest be started by a floor?



JIM:

(CHUCKLING) That's what I'll ell you, Best -- You see, thirty years ago, just about this time -- it was in war ---- There was a big, disastrous flood in the Wonongahela Roman basin. It did a hundred million dollars and lore in die in Pittsburgh was hit by the swirling, raging waters, just 118 it was last week -- Well, when they got around to looking into what caused the flood, they found for one thing the watersheds of the Allegheny and lionon ahela Rivers re : it pretty sorry shape Cutting away of timber and burning over the land time and time again had made a sad mess of what was once fine forest -- So a group of Pittsburgh citizent down to Washington to a congressional hearing and urged too establishment of a Mational Forest to help protect the headwaters of the Lonongalela. Finally, in 1911, Congress passed what was known as the Teeks Law, to authorize the Government to burchase lambs for the protection of watershade of n vigable streams. So the Forest Service, Legan purchas land at the readwaters of the Monon ahela, and pretty soon toe Mononvanela Mational Forest was established - and that a the Forest you might say as started by a flood How about the other National Forests in the East?

JERRY:



JII:

Well, I guess that applies to all of 'em, in a sense. It the 'eeks Law in 1911 that started the development of the whole National Forest System in the East. Up to that time only National Forests were the ones created out of ourlic domain lands in the West.

MARY:

JII:

What is the Monon; ahela National Forest like now?

Well, it's developing into a mighty fine Forest. If you want to see some of West Virginia's finest scenery, you'd better on a trip to the Monongahela one of these days. You can trip up to the top of Spruce Knob - in spite of it's unimpression name it's the highest peak in the region - and get a visual a great stretch of the Appalachians - ridge after ridge of mountains. Then there's Seneca Rocks - that's something to seeing. It's a great jagged mass of rocks standing up by

themselves --- a spectacular sight. Folks have a lot of full

climbing up to the top of 'em Then there's a place the

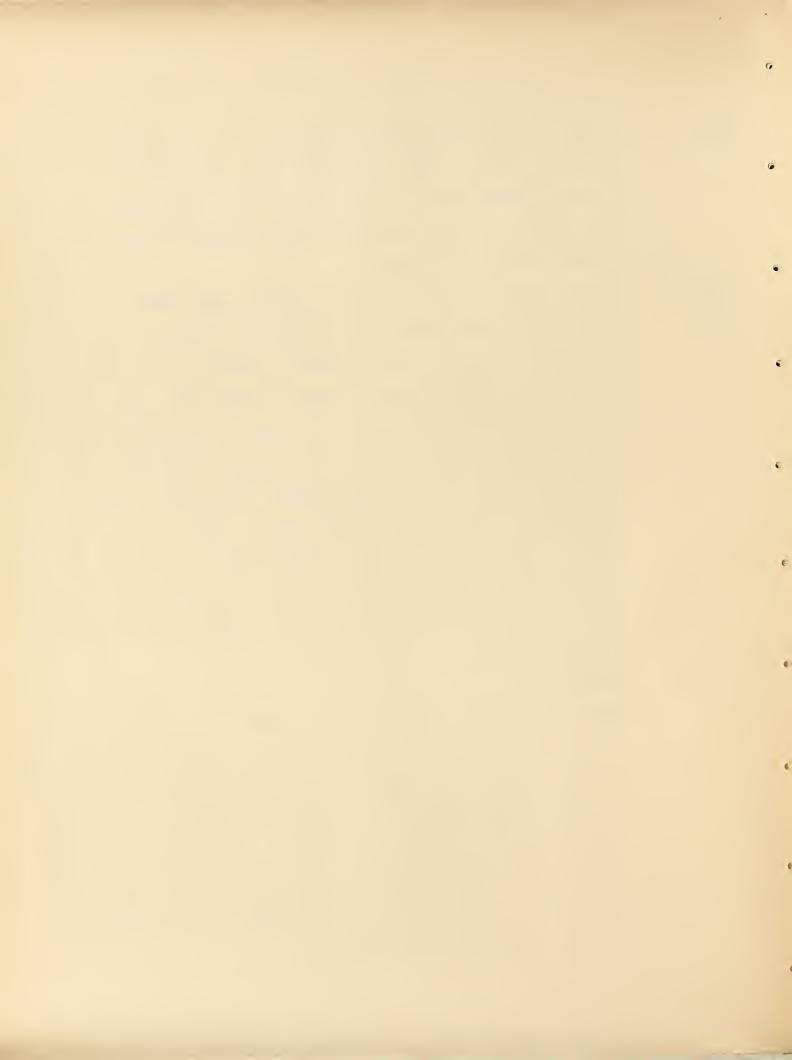
JERRY:

Smoke Hole?

the Smoke Hole

JIM:

Yeah. I don't know where the name came from Something about cave in a rock with a hole at the top, I think, where the summe could go out when the Indians built their fires. Any ay, it is a deep, narrow canyon of one of the branches of the Potorse River --- a wild, scenic place, with massive rock formations. Not much of a rold in there yet, but the Forest Service is building one. And then over on the other side is Black the Falls - a beautiful materfall.



Oh, I'd love to see it all sometime, Wouldn't you, Jerry? MARY:

I sure would. JERRY:

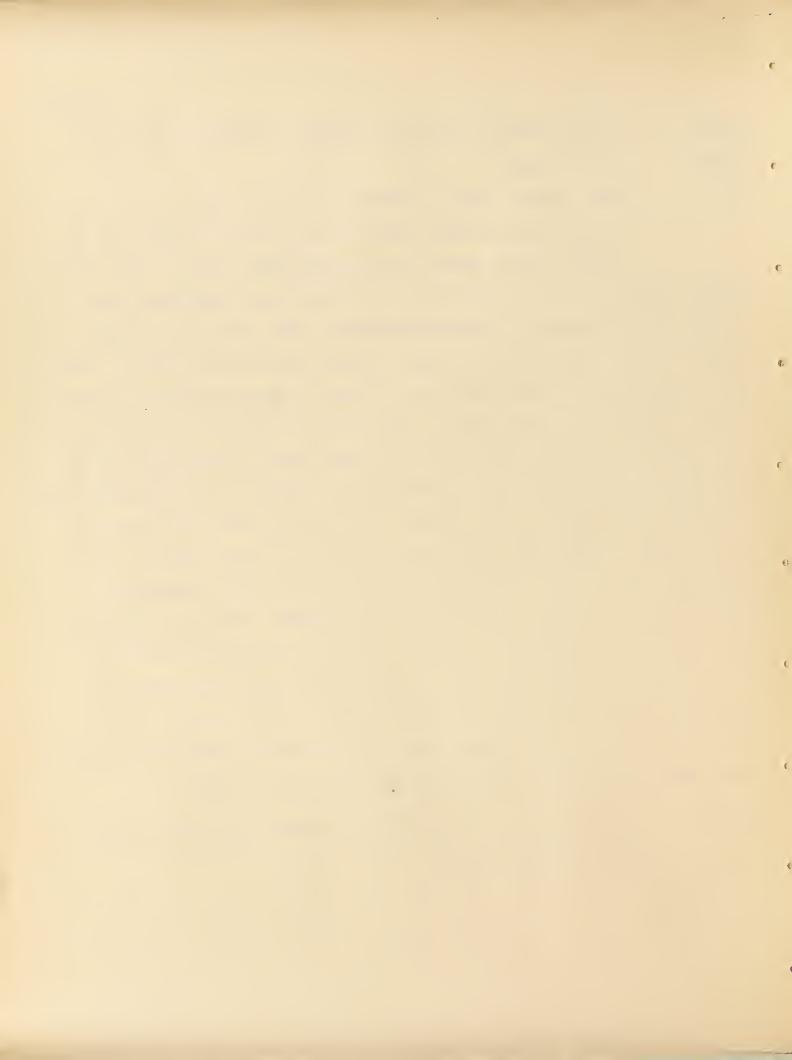
Well, there's lots of things of interest there - but to me JIM:

the most interesting thing of all is to see the big job of

rehabilitation that's being accomplished there -- fine new

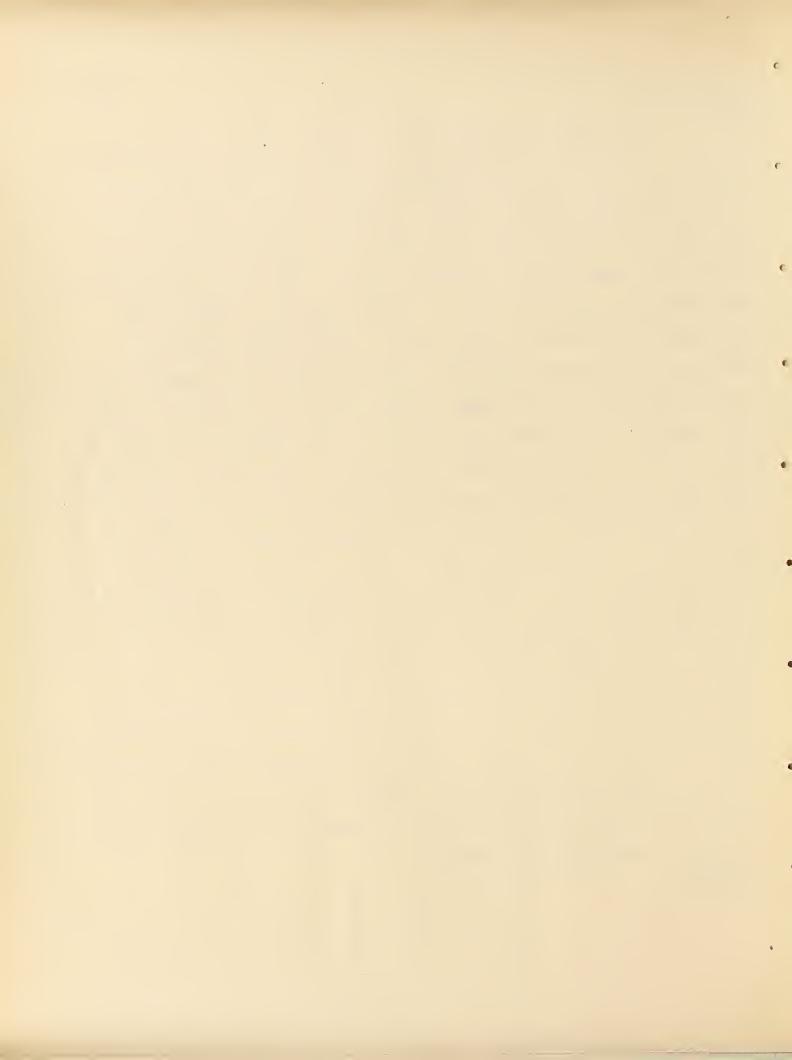
forest growing on what 25 years ago was wrecked and devastated land scenic beauty restored to barren wastelands. The foresters tackled a tough job when they started to build up that Forest back in 1911. They had to fight hard to keep fire out, they had to plant hundreds of acres to trees, and encourage the natural growth wherever there was a chance for it to come back naturally. They've built good roads to facilitate travel, and fixed up campgrounds for recreationists Wildlife is increasing, and there's good fishing in the streams -- But the job isn't all done yet by any means. Funds have been slow in coming so there's still a lot of land that needs to be purchased to round out the Forest boundaries. There's still thousands of acres to be reforested. The Forest Service has a nursery at Parsons, by the way, that's an interesting place to visit. They're growing millions of little trees there every year for planting in the Monongahela and other forests in the region. And of course as the forest is brought back, the watershed conditions that were the cause for its establishment are improving all the time

Maybe by the next time we have a heavy rain spell, it'll JERRY: keep it from flooding.



JIM:

No doubt it helped some this year to keep it from being even worse than it was. But the Monongahela Forest is only a small part of the river's watershed. There's other millions of acres in the river drain way, and much of it in worse shape than ever from a watershed protection standpoint. -Some day this country's going to learn what we rangers he ve been preaching for thirty years -- that so long as we neglect our watersheds veill keep on having floods. It's simple enough, too Whenever you see muddy water in a river, it means that somewhere soil is washing away from the hillsides, because water is running off too fast, when its clogging up the stream with silt so that it can carry less and less water and its going to overflow its banks all the quicker. Soil doesn't wash away from hillsides covered by vegetation or by the spongy leaf-little of the forest floor. We can't stop torrential rains from falling, but we can help to control the run-off -- by re-establishing forests on the watersheds where that is the best use of the land, by providing vegetative cover and other devices to check erosion and slow down the run-off other places. We can make running water slow down to a walk. -- Well, the flood back in 1907 brought about a beginning toward the protection of some or our watersheds. Maybe, if the disastrous flooms we've been having this year will cause this country to speed up the protection and reforestation of its critical watershed areas, to lessen flood danger in the future, these floods will have done some good, to make up for all the terrible damage and suffering they caused (FADEOUT)



ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers is presented by the National
Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United
States Forest Service.

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